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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. Ic14-11-000]

Commission Information Collection Activities (FERC-516a);
Comment Request; Extension

AGENCY: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of information collection and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 USC 3506(c)(2)(A), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) is soliciting public comment on the currently approved information collection, [FERC-516A, "Small Generator Interconnection Agreements" (OMB No. 1902-2003)].

DATES: Comments on the collection of information are due [insert date that is 60 days after publication in the Federal Register].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments (identified by Docket No. IC14-11-000) by either of the following methods:

- eFiling at Commission's Web Site: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>
- Mail/Hand Delivery/Courier: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission,
Secretary of the Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Instructions: All submissions must be formatted and filed in accordance with submission guidelines at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/submission-guide.asp>. For user assistance

contact FERC Online Support by e-mail at ferconlinesupport@ferc.gov, or by phone at: (866) 208-3676 (toll-free), or (202) 502-8659 for TTY.

Docket: Users interested in receiving automatic notification of activity in this docket or in viewing/downloading comments and issuances in this docket may do so at

<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/docs-filing.asp>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Ellen Brown may be reached by e-mail at DataClearance@FERC.gov, telephone at (202) 502-8663, and fax at (202) 273-0873.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: FERC-516A, Standardization of Small Generator Interconnection Agreements and Procedures

OMB Control No.: 1902-0203

Type of Request: Three-year extension of the information collection requirements for FERC-516A with no changes to the current reporting requirements.

Abstract: Under Sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act (FPA)¹ the Commission is charged with ensuring just and reasonable electric transmission rates and charges as well as ensuring that jurisdictional providers do not subject any person to any undue prejudice or disadvantage.

The lack of consistent and readily accessible terms and conditions for connecting resources to the grid led to a large number of disputes between jurisdictional transmission

¹ 16 USC § 824d and 824e.

providers and small generators² in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In response, the Commission directed transmission providers to include Commission-approved, standard, pro-forma interconnection procedures (small generator interconnection procedures or SGIP) and a single uniformly applicable interconnection agreement (small generator interconnection agreement or SGIA) in their open-access transmission tariffs (OATTs). The requirement to create and file these documents was instituted August 2005 by Commission Order No. 2006³ and is codified in 18 CFR 35.28(f). This requirement set and maintained a standard in OATTs for consistent consideration and processing of interconnection requests by transmission providers.

Since the issuance of Order No. 2006, many aspects of the energy industry have changed including the growth of small generator interconnection requests⁴ and the growth in solar photovoltaic (PV) installations. These changes have been driven, in part, by state renewable energy goals and policies. For example, approximately 3,300 MW of grid-connected PV capacity were installed in the U.S. in 2012⁵ compared to 79 MW in 2005, the year Order No. 2006 was issued.⁶

² “Small generators” are generating facilities having a capacity of no more than 20 megawatts (MW).

³ Standardization of Small Generation Interconnection Agreements and Procedures, Order No. 2006, 70 FR 34189 (May 12, 2005), FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶31,180 (2005).

⁴ See, e.g., *Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp.*, 133 FERC ¶ 61,223, at P 3 (2010) (stating that an increasing volume of small generator Interconnection Requests had created inefficiencies); *Pacific Gas & Elec. Co.*, 135 FERC ¶ 61,094, at P 4 (2011) (stating that increased small generator Interconnection Requests resulted in a backlog of 170 requests over three years); *PJM Interconnection, LLC*, 139 FERC ¶ 61,079, at P 12 (2012) (stating that smaller projects comprised 66 percent of recent queue volume).

⁵ Sherwood, Larry, U.S. Solar Market Trends 2012 at 4, available at <http://www.irecusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Solar-Report-Final-July-2013-1.pdf>.

⁶ U.S. Solar Market Insight Report, 2012 Year in Review, Executive Summary Table 2.1, available at <http://www.seia.org/research-resources/us-solar-market-insight-2012-year-in-review>.

In February 2012, pursuant to Sections 205 and 206 of the FPA and Rule 207 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures,⁷ and noting that the Commission encouraged stakeholders to submit proposed revisions to the regulations set forth in Order No. 2006,⁸ the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) filed a Petition to Initiate Rulemaking (Petition). The Petition requested the Commission revise the *pro forma* SGIA and SGIP set forth in Order No. 2006. SEIA asserted that the *pro forma* SGIP and SGIA as applied to small solar generation were no longer just and reasonable, had become unduly discriminatory, and presented unreasonable barriers to market entry.⁹ SEIA noted that its Petition would apply exclusively to solar electric generation due to its unique characteristics.¹⁰

In 2012 the Commission issued a Notice of Petition for Rulemaking in Docket No. RM12-10-000 and began a public process to explore SEIA's Petition through the Commission's formal notice and comment process as well as technical conferences.

In November 2013, the Commission issued Order No. 792 to amend the *pro forma* Small Generator Interconnection Procedures and *pro forma* Small Generator Interconnection Agreement.

Order No. 792: (1) incorporates provisions that provide an Interconnection Customer with the option of requesting from the Transmission Provider a pre-application

⁷ 18 CFR 385.207 (2012).

⁸ SEIA Petition at 4 (citing Order No. 2006, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,180 at P 118).

⁹ SEIA Petition at 12.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 4 (explaining that solar generation occurs only during daylight hours when peak load typically occurs, and solar photovoltaic technology utilizes inverters with built-in functions that protect the safety and reliability of the electric system).

report providing existing information about system conditions at a possible Point of Interconnection; (2) revised the 2 megawatt (MW) threshold for participation in the Fast Track Process included in section 2 of the *pro forma* SGIP; (3) revised the customer options meeting and the supplemental review following failure of the Fast Track screens so that the supplemental review is performed at the discretion of the Interconnection Customer and includes minimum load and other screens to determine if a Small Generating Facility may be interconnected safely and reliably; (4) revised the *pro forma* SGIP Facilities Study Agreement to allow the Interconnection Customer the opportunity to provide written comments to the Transmission Provider on the upgrades required for interconnection; (5) revised the *pro forma* SGIP and the *pro forma* SGIA to specifically include energy storage devices; and (6) clarified certain sections of the *pro forma* SGIP and the *pro forma* SGIA.

With these modifications, the Commission concluded that the package of reforms adopted in Order No. 792 will reduce the time and cost to process small generator interconnection requests for Interconnection Customers and Transmission Providers, maintain reliability, increase energy supply, and remove barriers to the development of new energy resources.

Type of Respondents: Jurisdictional transmission service providers.

*Estimate of Annual Burden*¹¹: Based on filings received in 2013 and the increased burden from Order No. 792, the Commission estimates the total Public Reporting Burden for this information collection as:

FERC-516A (Standardization of Small Generator Interconnection Agreements and Procedures)						
Requirements ¹²	Number of Respondents Annually (1)	Annual Number of Responses Per Respondent (2)	Total Number of Responses (1)*(2)=(3)	Average Burden & Cost Per Response ¹³ (4)	Total Annual Burden Hours & Total Annual Cost (3)x(4)=(5)	Cost per Respondent (\$) (5)÷(1)
Maintenance of Documents - Transmission Providers	46	1	46	1 \$72.73	46 \$3,345.58	\$72.73
Filing of Agreements - Transmission Providers	95	1	95	25 \$1,818.25	2,375 \$172,733.75	\$1,818.25
Pre-Application Report - Interconnection Customers ¹⁴	800	1	800	1 \$72.73	800 \$58,184	\$72.73
Pre-Application Report - Transmission Providers	142	5.63	800	2.5 \$181.83	2,000 \$145,460	\$1,024.37
Supplemental Review - Interconnection Customers	500	1	500	0.5 \$35.37	250 \$18,182.50	\$36.37

¹¹ The Commission defines burden as the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. For further explanation of what is included in the information collection burden, reference 5 Code of Federal Regulations 1320.3.

¹² All of the requirements for transmission providers is mandatory. All of the requirements for interconnection customers is voluntary.

¹³ The estimates for cost per response are derived using the following formula: Average Burden Hours per Response * \$71.42 per Hour = Average Cost per Response. This figure is the average of the salary plus benefits for an attorney, consultant (engineer), engineer, and administrative staff. The wages are derived from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics at http://bls.gov/oes/current/naics3_221000.htm and the benefits figure from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/eccec.nr0.htm>.

¹⁴ We assume each request for a pre-application report corresponds with one Interconnection Customer.

Supplemental Review - Transmission Providers	142	3.52	500	20 \$1,454.60	10,000 \$727,300	\$5,121.83
Review of Required Upgrades - Interconnection Customers	250	1	250	1 \$72.73	250 \$18,182.50	\$72.73
Review of Required Upgrades - Transmission Providers	142	1.76	250	2 \$145.46	500 \$36,365	\$256.09
Totals			3,241		16,221 \$1,179,753.33	

Comments: Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Commission, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: April 11, 2014

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

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